

Application No.: 09/639,098

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated April 7, 2004

Reply to the Office Action of November 7, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1- 7 and 11 – 12 have been canceled. New claim 34 was added. Claims 8-10 and 13-34 remain pending. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over **Valliani, et al.** (USP 6,234,389). Claims 8-10 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over **Klatt** (USP 6,592,031, as the English language equivalent of DE 29821644). Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Klatt**, in view of **Dickinson** (USP 6,631,201). However, it is submitted that nothing in the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention, as amended.

For instance, amended independent claims 8 and 28 recite the identification-information-acquisition unit/fingerprint-reading unit being detachable from the carrier unit and connectable to the information processing device through a cable when the identification-information-acquisition unit/fingerprint-reading unit is detached from the carrier unit. Such a configuration is shown, for example, in Fig. 12 and the corresponding description in the specification.

The Office Action relied on the further reference to **Dickinson**, Figs. 21-23 and column 16, lines 9 – 32 for allegedly disclosing these features. Figs. 21-23 and column 16, lines 9 - 24 disclose a sensor module 300 that is connected to the interface 318 through the flexible cable 312, wherein the sensor module 300 slides from the retracted position to the activate position

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extending to flexible cable 312. Column 16, lines 25 – 32 describe the sensor 5 being detachable from the sensor module.

However, the detached sensor 5 is not connected to the interface 318, but is simply stored in the interface card 1 when it is not in use. In particular, the cable 312 only connects the sensor module 300 and the interface 318 in both the retracted position and the activate position. The cable 312 does *not* connect to the sensor 5 when the sensor 5 is detached. In contrast, amended claims 8 and 28 recite the cable connection between the identification-information-acquisition unit / fingerprint-reading unit to the information processing device when the identification-information-acquisition unit / fingerprint-reading unit is detached from the carrier unit. Therefore, the present claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

New claim 34 also distinguishes over the prior art for reasons similar to those above.

Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If for any reason it is believed that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Enclosures: Change of Address
Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Approval of Drawing Changes

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